

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A binder for releasably binding a plurality of loose-leaves comprising:

a conduit casing having a conduit;

a spine embedded within said conduit;

a plurality of binder rings attached to said spine;

each of said binder rings rotatable relative to said conduit;

an a actuator for opening all of said binder rings substantially together;

~~an attachment means for subsequent assembly of said conduit casing with a complementary cover portion;~~

~~wherein~~ said spine is rotatably disposed in said conduit as a pivot about which said conduit casing ~~cover~~ is rotatable;

said conduit casing is made of a sheet of material and has a wrapping portion defining said conduit and a planar portion, thickness of said sheet when said wrapping portion is unwrapped is less than diameter of said conduit;

said planar portion for attaching said conduit casing with a complementary cover portion during subsequent assembly;

whereby a subassembly can be manufactured independently of said complementary cover portion to facilitate efficiencies in component manufacturing, packaging, distribution and assembly.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The binder of claim 1 further comprising a complementary cover portion with an open-groove conduit adjacent a fold; said wrapping portion shaped as a tubular portion; ~~said planar portion containing said attachment means~~; said conduit casing is attached to said complementary cover portion such that said open-groove conduit receives said tubular portion; whereby said conduit casing is positioned more flush with surfaces of said complementary cover portion.

3. (ORIGINAL) A binder for releasably binding a plurality of loose-leaves comprising:  
a cover comprising a back cover, a middle cover, and a front cover;  
a plurality of binder rings;  
said middle cover joins said back cover to said front cover;  
said back cover has a conduit casing with a tubular portion and a substantially planar portion;  
said conduit casing attached to said back cover near an edge of said planar portion remotely opposite said tubular portion;  
said conduit casing defines a conduit and a plurality of slots, each of said slots receiving at least a portion of one of said binder rings;  
each of said binder rings rotatably disposed about an axis located within said conduit;  
said back cover separated from said middle cover by a fold;  
said conduit casing is made of a flexible material and straddles said fold;  
said tubular portion lifted by said middle cover when said cover is closed;  
said tubular portion droops around said fold when said cover is folded flatly open 360 degrees along said fold;  
whereby said tubular portion is substantially flush with flat formation of said cover.

4. (ORIGINAL) A binder for releasably binding a plurality of loose-leaves comprising:
- a conduit casing having a conduit;
  - a plurality of binder rings which are each openable and closable;
  - an instant user-affixed adhesive attachment for attaching said conduit casing to a surface;
  - said conduit casing is made of a sheet of flexible material;
  - said conduit casing has a wrapping portion and a substantially planar portion,
  - said wrapping portion defines said conduit;
  - said planar portion has said instant user-affixed adhesive attachment;
  - each of said binder rings substantially rotatable about an axis located within said conduit;
  - said conduit casing defines a plurality of slots, each of said slots intersecting said conduit
- and receiving at least a near portion of one of said binder rings;
- a remote portion of each of said binder rings is rotatable about an edge of said conduit casing;
- whereby said instant user-affixed adhesive attachment offers ready, quick and easy mounting of said conduit casing with said binder rings upon a user-selected complementary cover portion such as a file folder.
5. (ORIGINAL) The binder of claim 4 wherein said flexible material selected from the group consisting of canvas, paper, card, cardboard, plastic, vinyl and fabric.
6. (ORIGINAL) The binder of claim 4 further comprising a pocket spanning gap;
- whereby said pocket spanning gap facilitates increased access to pockets when said conduit casing is attached to pocket-enhanced folders.
7. (ORIGINAL) A loose-leaf binder cover comprising:
- a substantially planar cover portion;

a conduit casing;

an instant pivot fastening;

said conduit casing is a cover portion that defines a conduit and is connected to said planar cover portion;

said conduit casing able to receive a user-selected compatible pivot binding having an axial portion and a plurality of openable binder rings such that said axial portion of said pivot binding able to be rotatably disposed in said conduit as a pivot about which said planar cover portion is rotatable;

said conduit casing defines a plurality of slots, each of said slots intersecting said conduit and able to receive at least a portion of one of said openable binder rings of said pivot binding;

said conduit casing is integrally formed with said instant pivot fastening;

said instant pivot fastening comprises a flexible material adjoining an aperture to said conduit, said flexible material yields sufficiently under manual manipulation without tools to open said aperture wide enough to receive said axial portion of said pivot binding into said conduit;

said instant pivot fastening has a ready closure means to narrow or close said aperture enough to securely fasten said axial portion of said pivot binding within said conduit while accommodating rotation of said binder rings;

said conduit is sized to snugly hold said axial portion of said pivot binding such that translational motion of said axial portion is restricted without hindering preset range of rotational motion of said binder rings;

said planar cover portion substantially wider than said conduit;

width of said slot not more than five times largest interspacing between said slots;

whereby at the time of binding loose-leaves, a user is provided with valued flexibility to choose appropriate said pivot binding especially with regard to ring-size and optional actuator.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The loose-leaf binder cover of claim 7 wherein said flexible material selected from the group consisting of canvas, paper, card, cardboard, plastic, vinyl and fabric.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The loose-leaf binder cover of claim 7 wherein said instant pivot fastening comprises an instant user-sealed wrap-flap closure; said wrap-flap closure comprises a wrapping portion made of a sheet of said flexible material, a free end of said wrapping portion has ~~having~~ said ready closure means for attaching said free end ~~of said wrapping portion~~ to said planar cover portion to close said conduit, said ready closure means selected from the group consisting of self-adhesive, water-activated adhesive, removable adhesive, restickable adhesive, plastic zipper-lock, hooks and loops, tab and slot, flatly-spreadable two-prong fasteners, and snap fasteners.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The loose-leaf binder cover of claim 7 wherein said instant pivot fastening comprises a snap-in clasp closure; said snap-in clasp closure comprises a resilient material adjoining said aperture; said axial portion of said pivot binding is snapped through transiently expandable said aperture into said conduit casing and secured via return to narrow form of said aperture.

11. (ORIGINAL) A loose-leaf binder cover comprising:

a substantially planar cover portion;

a conduit casing;

an instant user-sealed wrap-flap closure;

said conduit casing defines a conduit and is connected to said planar cover portion;

said conduit casing able to receive a user-selected compatible skeleton having a spine attached to a plurality of openable binder rings such that said spine is able to be rotatably disposed in said conduit as a pivot about which said planar cover portion is rotatable;

said conduit casing defines a plurality of slots, each of said slots intersecting said conduit and able to receive at least a portion of one of said openable binder rings;

said conduit casing is integrally formed with said instant user-sealed wrap-flap closure;

said instant user-sealed wrap-flap closure is made from a sheet of flexible material and comprises a wrapping portion and an adjoining substantially planar free end;

said planar free end having a ready closure means for securely closing said conduit casing;

said ready closure means selected from the group consisting of self-adhesive, water-activated adhesive, removable adhesive, restickable adhesive, plastic zipper-lock, hooks and loops, tab and slot, flatly-spreadable two-prong fasteners and snap fasteners;

each of said plurality of slots has a closed perimeter when said wrapping portion is flatly unwrapped prior to assembly such that said conduit casing has continuous longitudinal portions one and two that are on opposite sides of said plurality of slots and that are parallel to longitudinal dimension of said conduit;

unwrapped length of said slots at least as long as an outer diameter of said plurality of binder rings;

whereby each of said continuous longitudinal portions one and two of said conduit casing are much easier to manipulate during assembly with said user-selected skeleton than an alternative comb-like portion with a discontinuous edge interrupted by numerous said slots especially when working with said flexible material.

12. (ORIGINAL) A binder for releasably binding a plurality of loose-leaves comprising:

a cover having a conduit;

a skeleton having a spine and a plurality of binder rings;

each of said binder rings is openable and is attached to said spine;

said skeleton is a single piece of molded plastic;

each of said binder rings is substantially constrained to rotate with said spine when said binder rings are closed;

said cover defines a plurality of slots, each of said slots intersecting said conduit and receiving at least a portion of one of said binder rings;

said spine is rotatably disposed in said conduit as a pivot about which said cover is rotatable such that each of said binder rings is rotatable relative to said conduit;

said cover comprises a back cover with a planar portion alongside a wrapping portion, said wrapping portion defines said conduit;

said wrapping portion is made of a sheet of soft flexible material of substantially uniform thickness when flatly unwrapped;

said wrapping portion has end one and end two that are broad and parallel to the longitudinal dimension of said conduit;

both said end one and said end two of said wrapping portion are smoothly and rivetlessly attached to said planar portion of said back cover to structurally support said conduit.

13. (ORIGINAL) The binder of claim 12 wherein said soft flexible material selected from the group consisting of canvas, paper, card, cardboard, plastic, vinyl and fabric.

14. (ORIGINAL) The binder of claim 12 wherein said slots have slot-extending slits;

said slits are flexible to transiently expand enabling said binder rings to pass through said slots during assembly of said skeleton with said cover;

extended length of said slots including said slits at least as long as an outer diameter of said plurality of binder rings;

said slits are very narrow after completion of assembly of said skeleton with said cover such that opposite edges of said slit are so close as to provide a nearly smooth uninterrupted surface.

15. (ORIGINAL) The binder of claim 12 wherein each of said plurality of slots has a closed perimeter when said wrapping portion is flatly unwrapped prior to assembly such that said cover has continuous longitudinal portions one and two that are on opposite sides of said plurality of slots and that are parallel to longitudinal dimension of said conduit;

unwrapped length of said slots at least as long as an outer diameter of said plurality of binder rings;

whereby each of said continuous longitudinal portions one and two of said cover are much easier to manipulate during assembly than an alternative comb-like portion with a discontinuous edge interrupted by numerous said slots especially when manipulating said soft flexible material.

16. (ORIGINAL) The binder of claim 12 further comprising a sliding zipper tab; a pair of zipper-tab stops, said zipper tab stops located at opposite ends of said spine to retain said sliding zipper tab on said spine, said zipper tab slidable along said spine in either direction to open or close said binder rings in rapid sequence via zipper action.

17. (ORIGINAL) A binder for releasably binding a plurality of loose-leaves comprising:  
at least one ring that is openable and closable;



an orthogonal base;

a closure to secure ring closed;

said ring has an oblong perimeter;

said ring has a minor diameter defining an upright ring position when said minor diameter is substantially vertical;

said ring has roughly-vertical column-like thick portions when situated in said upright ring position;

said ring has a roughly-horizontal bow-like thin upper portion when situated in said upright ring position;

said ring has a roughly-horizontal extendable lower portion when situated in said upright ring position;

each of said column-like thick portions are on average thicker than said bow-like thin upper portion;

said orthogonal base perpendicularly intersects said lower portion of said ring;

said ring is reversibly compressible relative to a moderate compressive force roughly exerted in the direction of said minor diameter such that said column-like thick portions resist permanent buckling while said bow-like thin upper portion and said extendable lower portion more readily flatten and widen outward to provide most of desired reversible vertical compressibility and spring back to resume relaxed expanded form of said ring upon removal of said moderate compressive force.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The binder of claim 17 wherein said ring has a minor dimension and a major dimension; said major dimension is at least 1.5 times said minor dimension when said ring is fully relaxed and expanded.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The binder of claim 17 ~~further comprising~~ wherein said closure is a telescopic interlock closure.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The binder of claim 17 further comprising a cover having a ring-crush resister; said ring crush resister positioned adjacent said ring as a physical obstruction within said cover to inhibit permanent deformation of said ~~openable~~ ring due to excessive compressive force exerted in the direction of said minor diameter of said ~~openable~~ ring by sharing load of said compressive force with said ~~openable~~ ring.

21. (ORIGINAL) The binder of claim 17 further comprising a cover having effectively a primary cover fold when said cover is closed such that said cover has an aesthetically pleasing streamline contour when closed and is ultra thin to save space.

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The binder of claim 17 wherein said primary cover fold comprises two very close substantially 90-degree folds effectively acting as one substantially 180-degree fold; distance between said 90-degree folds less than half of said minor diameter of said ~~openable~~ ring.

23. (ORIGINAL) The binder of claim 17 wherein said ring has a flip-top hinge.

24. (NEW) A loose-leaf binder comprising:

a plurality of oblong binder rings that are each closable from an open position via an interlock closure;

a connective element having at least one pivot coinciding with a main axis of rotation of said oblong binder rings;

said connective element joining together and aligning said oblong binder rings along said main axis of rotation;

each of said oblong binder rings has a major diameter, a minor diameter and a perimeter when closed;

said main axis perpendicularly intersecting each of said oblong binder rings approximately at an intersection of said minor diameter and said perimeter of each of said oblong binder rings and defining an upright ring position when said minor diameter is substantially vertical and said main axis disposed approximately at lower end of said minor diameter;

said pivot perpendicularly attached to at least a ring one of said oblong binder rings at a roughly straight or gradually curved bottom portion thereof providing a fairly stable base;

said bottom portion always remaining roughly straight or gradually curved whenever said ring one is closed and is subject to normal usage thereby resisting abrupt flopping of said ring one toward either side of said pivot when said ring one is situated in said upright ring position;

said oblong binders maintain an oblong shape whenever closed such that said major diameter is always at least 1.5 times longer than said minor diameter whenever said oblong binder rings are closed and are subject to normal usage;

said pivot is sufficiently thin to be disposed in a conduit of a prospective cover enabling said pivot to be axially located relative to opposing rotations of said prospective cover and said oblong binder rings while said oblong binder rings remain closed;

whereby arrangement of said pivot with said oblong binder rings facilitates rotational attachment of said oblong binder rings to a suitable flatly-foldable extra-thin cover, saving storage space when said extra-thin cover is closed, enabling good page-turning of ring-bound loose-leaves when said extra-thin cover is open 180 degrees, enabling ring-bound loose-leaves to stack substantially flat above and below said pivot when said extra-thin cover is flatly open 360 degrees.

25. (NEW) The binder of claim 24 wherein

each of said oblong binder rings has roughly-vertical column-like stiff portions when situated in said upright ring position;

each of said oblong binder rings has a roughly-horizontal bow-like flexible upper portion when situated in said upright ring position;

each of said oblong binder rings has a roughly-horizontal lower portion when situated in said upright ring position;

each of said oblong binder rings is reversibly compressible relative to a moderate compressive force roughly exerted in the direction of said minor diameter such that said column-like stiff portions resist permanent buckling while said bow-like flexible upper portions more readily flatten and widen outward to provide much of desired reversible vertical compressibility,

each of said oblong binder rings springs back to resume a relaxed expanded form upon removal of said moderate compressive force.

26. (NEW) The binder of claim 24 wherein said pivot is a spine, each of said oblong binder rings is attached to said spine, said spine and said oblong binder rings are elements of a skeleton; said skeleton is a single piece of molded plastic.

27. (NEW) The binder of claim 24, further comprising:

a conduit casing having a conduit;

said pivot disposed within said conduit;

each of said oblong binder rings rotatable relative to said conduit;

said conduit casing is made of a sheet of material and has a wrapping portion defining said conduit and a substantially planar portion, thickness of said sheet when said wrapping portion is unwrapped is less than diameter of said conduit;

said planar portion for attaching said conduit casing to a complementary cover portion;  
whereby a subassembly can be manufactured independently of said complementary cover portion to facilitate efficiencies in component manufacturing, packaging, distribution and assembly.

28. (NEW) The binder of claim 24, further comprising:

a cover having a conduit casing and a complementary cover portion;  
said conduit casing having a conduit and said complementary cover portion having an edge-fold;

said pivot disposed within said conduit and each of said oblong binder rings rotatable relative to said conduit;

said conduit casing has a wrapping portion and a substantially planar portion; said wrapping portion defines said conduit and said planar portion for fastening said conduit casing to said complementary cover portion;

said wrapping portion is made of a sheet of material of substantially uniform thickness when flatly unwrapped;

said conduit casing is parallel and proximate to said edge-fold;

said complementary cover portion can be folded open 360 degrees in a flat formation along said edge-fold such that said wrapping portion overhangs said edge-fold.

29. (NEW) The binder of claim 24 wherein said connective element is rigidly joined to said pivot prohibiting rotation of said connective element relative to said pivot; said ring one rotatable about said pivot while said pivot remains motionless; said connective element having a planer portion for attaching said connective element to a complementary cover portion.

30. (NEW) The binder of claim 24 wherein said interlock closure is a telescopic interlock closure; said telescopic interlock closure provides substantial reversible extension or contraction of said minor diameter of each of said oblong binder rings to improve page-turning of ring-bound loose-leaves when extended and to save space when contracted.